

Top of the Hill

Volume 8, Number 4

MBA Junior School

Graduation

Chillin' in Hotlanta

By Chase Altenbern

For somewhat of a long bus ride, the trips were filled with assured fun and entertainment from watching such movies as *Gladiator*, *Wayne's*

to stop. When our buses arrived in Atlanta, we first headed down to the Varsity, a fast food restaurant and was once the largest drive-in restaurant in

buses to prepare for our next stop: World of Coke and Underground Atlanta. While we waited for our tour guide, we posed for a class picture at



Class of 2007: Ready to invade Underground Atlanta

World, Ocean's Eleven, *Braveheart*, and disappointingly, *Remember the Titans*. If I'm not mistaken, we watched *Remember the Titans* on the seventh grade trip also and on every other bus trip we've been on. Our fun, however, was constantly shattered by the constant, mindless, annoying Everitte Barbee, who continuously would shoot spit balls at the back of people's heads no matter how many times he was asked

the world. We were happily greeted by such phrases as, "What choo have!?" or, "Give me yo' order, sugar." We were all able to order immediately because they had somewhere around twenty cashiers. Loaded with burgers and fries (no French up in here), our plastic boxes in which are meals were served were dripping with grease.

Sporting our new Varsity hats, we finally found our way toward the

the square in front of the World of Coke. One of the most degrading parts of the trip was the ten minute video at the museum. This video contained corny clips where people could be seen drinking coke all over the world. Its cheesy repetitiveness dampened our spirits and dulled the excited mood. After the video we were able to taste

Continued on page 14

SPORTS

8th Grade Lacrosse

By Stockton Beveridge

The eighth grade lacrosse team had a fun and prosperous season this year. We had the privilege of playing under Coach Todd Counter after a championship season last year; however, Coaches Alex Dean and Tom Kates were not able to return. As a result, we recruited a West Point lacrosse-playing graduate by the name of Reedy. This year, the coaches decided to have tryouts to trim down the team from the enormous number of participants last year. With this done, the team set its sights on the season. A few new players added to the greatness of our team: Wes McKeithen (replacing the traitor to track Mark Piana) and Travis Brannon (replacing Guy "I'm Afraid of the Ball" McClure). Coach Counter fulfilled his "hard coach" reputation and ran us almost every day. Although the practices continued to be difficult, the running kept our team in top physical shape, making the games much easier to win.

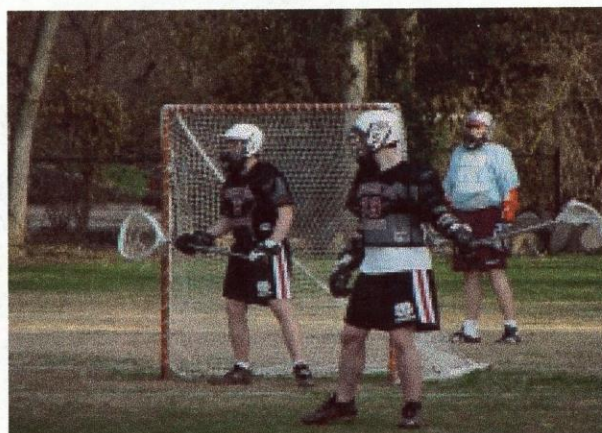
The games were usually lazy, consisting of half-hearted warmups and stretches, Mike Herron saying

a Holy Mary, like in "Rudy," to all the starters before the game (no one else

was Catholic, so no one else knew the prayer,) throwing in a quick seven or eight goals in the first half, and allowing the backups to finish demolishing the opposing team. Although playing in this style may be fun, it quickly came back to haunt us.



Martin Thompson runs in on a line change



Carver Morgan and Stephen Dolan defend the net.



Weston Cowden slams a USN player to the ground.

(courtesy of Rob Phipps), the team had a violent awakening. Other big wins we

Woodland Middle School had a solid lacrosse team. During a close sudden death win against them

our easy tournament schedule (Harding and then Grassland), we mistakenly gathered a relaxed attitude going into the championship game. The Woodland lacrosse team was able to seize the opportunity and, with a little help from the referees, unfortunately win the tournament that was rightfully ours, despite our magnificent comeback at the end. Although this season was extremely disappointing, we were told to use the loss as a "stepping stone" for future games. Even though we lost the tournament this year, most people would say that we are still the best team ever to hit the Southeast.

had were against McCallie (7-4), Lovett (8-3... thanks to the incessant cheering of the eighth grade class), Cobb County, and another undefeated regular season under our belts, we proceeded to become the first seed in the Middle Tennessee Championships, hosted by our new friends from Woodland Middle School. Because of

—LIMBOLYMPICS—

How Low Can You Go?

By Tate McNeilly

At the last mixer, Matt Crook demonstrated to everyone that he was a good limboist. I saw him stretching before the competition, so I went over to help him stretch. We did drills, such as sprints and stretches, that definitely helped his limbo skills. The drill that helps him the most is the punching drill. In this drill, Matt punches my hands to get rid of all of his negative thoughts. Anyway, after Matt won the competition, I asked him if he had a coach yet and he replied, "No," so I took him in. I would train him to be the

the best coaches around. We trained some more, and five minutes before the competition, Matt went to the corner of the gym to be alone and to clear his

had talent in limbo?

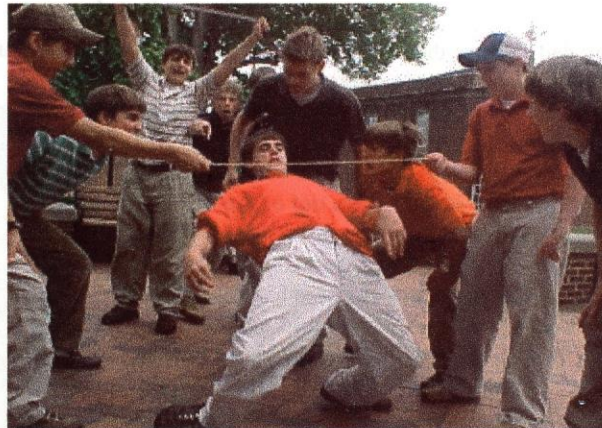
Matt: Wow, great question. I would have to say when I was a toddler. My grandmother forced me to limbo as much as possible.

Tate: How has limbo changed your life?

Matt: Well, if you think about it, it changed my life like corn changing into cornbread.

Tate: How often do you practice?

Matt: As an amateur, I practice two or fifty times a day. I do speed drill,



Matt clears 3' to defeat Backboneless Bob

head. Weston Iler saw this and volunteered to be Matt's personal mental coach, which means that he tells Matt that he is short. The competition

strength, and height.

Tate: Who is your competition?

Matt: Well, personally, I think that is a retarded question, but Backboneless Bill



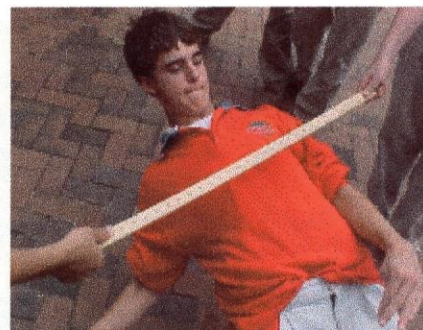
The Limbo coaches embrace their young star.

next Studibaker Bud, the best limboist ever. At the last EYO dance, Matt and I started warming up. We went through the regular warm up routine. By pure luck, Rob Phipps and Nick Caroland saw how outstanding Matt was. They immediately wanted to join the team, which thrilled Matt and me because both of us knew that they were some of

was great and, of course, Matt won. The next week at school, everyone was excited that Matt had won and it became a really big deal. Recently, I signed Jack Long-Innes and Weston Cowden as the agents. Gentry Smith turned in a resume to the coaches, and he is

officially the equipment management. Since the three coaches think that Matt has so much potential, we all bought whistles and we even bought Matt an extremely expensive jersey. Currently, Jack and Weston are trying to schedule a Junior School limbo competition sponsored by Team Short Stuff. Recently, I had an interview with Matt.

Tate: When did you first realize that you



"Limbo has changed my life."

from Birmingham is pretty good.

Tate: Do you have any last words?

Matt: Yeah, actually I wrote a poem:

Out on the court,

Limbo is my sport.

My coaches make me train,

In the sun and in the rain.

I go very low,

And what do you know?!

My coaches tell me what to do,

"Dern' it, Crook, that's two!"

OF INTEREST

Keeper of the Bees

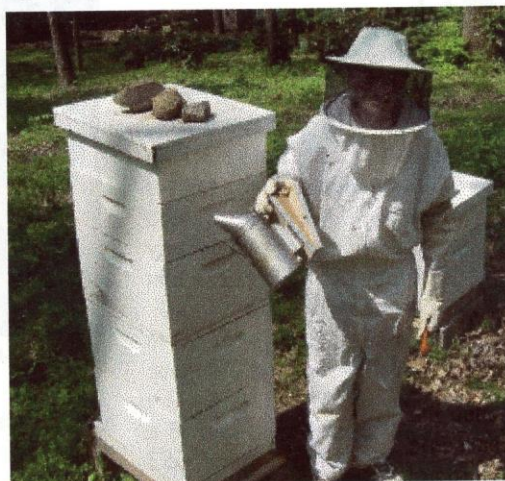
By Nicholas Drinkwater

One day my dad told me that he had just ordered two hives of bees off of the internet and they would be arriving in a few weeks. This was actually not that surprising, considering some of his past endeavors. He told me that he used to keep bees with his father when he was my age, so I agreed to go along. Over the course of the next few weeks he read some books to refresh his memory about the details of beekeeping. He taught me some of the basics about how the hive functions.

When the bees finally came, my mom had to go to pick them up at the post office. They arrived in specially-made mesh boxes. We had to wait until the weekend when we had enough time to properly release them

the weekend came, we put on our protective suits, veils, and gloves. We opened up the tops of the hives and dumped as many of the bees out of the box into the hive as possible. Unfortunately, many of the bees had died before we could get them into the hives. The queen bee, the most important part of the hive comes in her own separate capsule inside the box. We released her into the hive. Without a queen bee, the hive will not function. They will either swarm to

During the first harvest, we got around



The Secret Life of Nicholas Drinkwater



BEEES! BEEES!

into the hives that we had assembled. They were kept in the dark basement as the manual instructed and they were sprayed with sugar-water daily. When

bees because they are strong enough to get their own food and water.

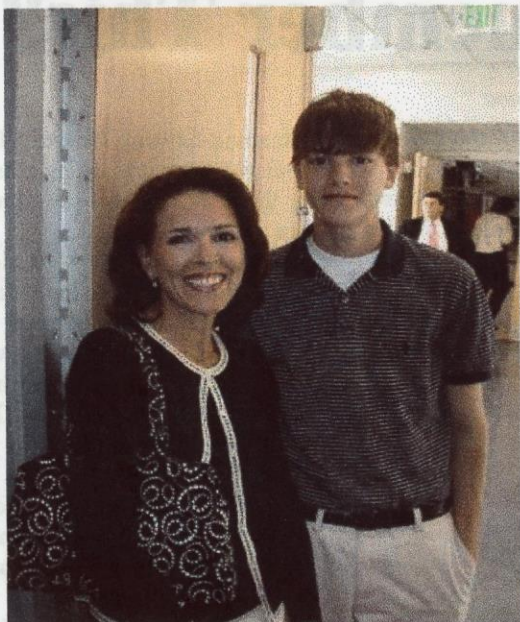
Last year, we harvested honey from the bees twice during the summer.

a new hive or be attacked by another hive and taken over. Every day t h a t summer I had to go up to the hives and fill up their feeders with sugar water. We no longer have to feed the

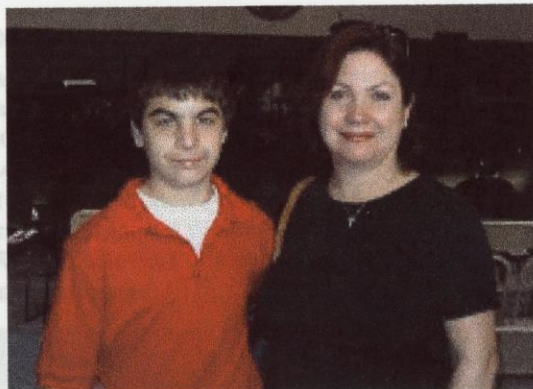
ten jars of honey. During the second harvest, we got sixteen. I am glad that I agreed to go along with my dad's idea. Beekeeping has many rewards, including an endless supply of honey. I have learned a lot about bees, and I am still amazed at some of the very intelligent things that they do. I will continue beekeeping and hopefully pass it on to my family in the future.

***Farewell and
Best Wishes:
Mrs. Ashworth
Ms. Gulvas
Mr. Nichol
Mr. McGugin
Ms. Brown***

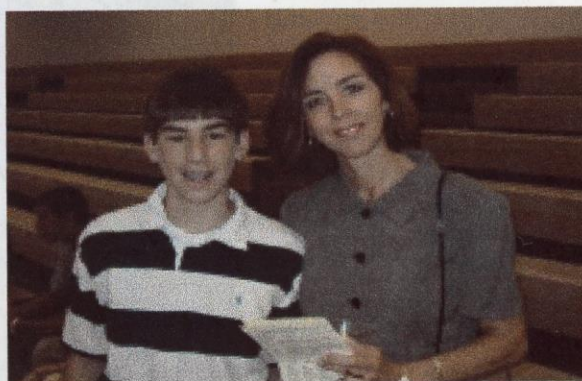
YOUR MOM



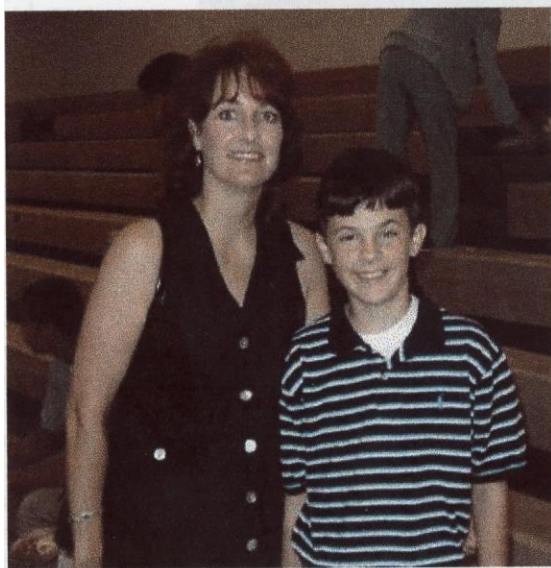
Kathleen and Beau Evers



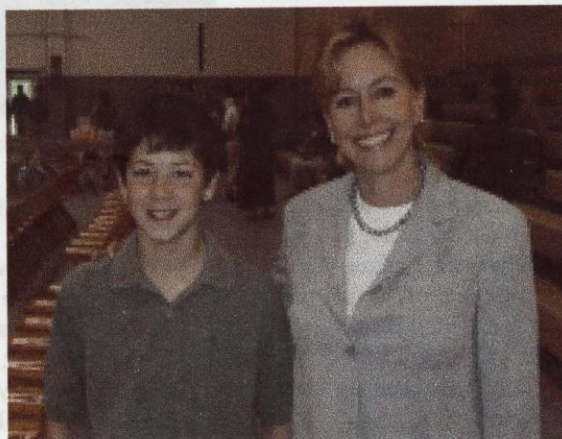
Alex and Debbie Darsinos



Daniel and Lyn Givens



Gina and Taylor Colbert



Lindsay and Lise Bohannon

MEMORIES

Time Flies: Remember This?

By Mark Piana

Wow! It has already been two years! It seems that just yesterday we were sitting in front of Mr. Thurmond, being told to tuck in our shirts and to sit up straight at seventh grade registration. Now we're almost done with eighth grade! Here's a rundown of our past two years:

Day 1 (Registration) - Everyone was extremely nervous, but for those of you who had Dr. Marro, you all can remember the first day with him. Most of us were scared out of our minds after seeing him walk in with his big sunglasses on and a meter stick in his hand. After about ten minutes of torture, we were wondering how we could make it through this one class, let alone even seventh grade.

Three weeks later - The first demerits were given to Rob Phipps for taking his shoes off before school.

Camp Laney - Forget about rock climbing and making our own boats; everyone has to remember Ruben on the Kamikaze and Ben asking Mr. Popovich about his girlfriend, not one of the brightest ideas.

Christmas Break - Everyone probably went home, hibernated, and woke up only for the holidays. I doubt many people studied for exams like we were told to do.

First Semester Exams - Cramming every morning, people plotting ways to get back at their teachers, and answers of "I don't know!" and "I'm gonna fail!" were common through this painful week.

3rd Quarter Ends - We couldn't wait for the year to end. Now we paid even less attention to Mr. Russell's

mythology and *Mutant Message Down Under* lessons than before.

Spring Break - One last chance to have fun before we were engulfed in the endless mass of tests and quizzes leading up to exams.

Lacrosse Team Wins Championship - After weeks of hard work, the lacrosse

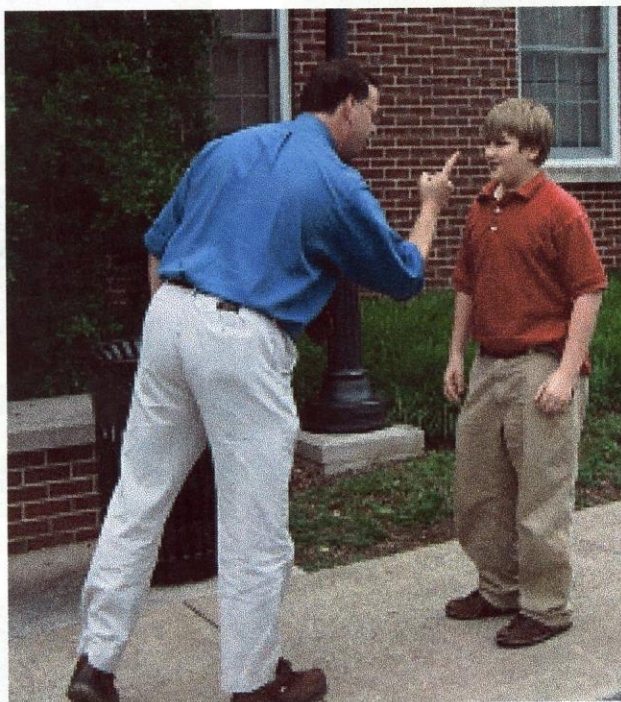
Outstanding Seventh Grader. There were also some good-looking girls, but other than that, can you say "unusual means of torture?"

8th Grade Registration - We slowly dragged ourselves back into Massey Commons for the start of the new year. We also found out whether we would

be failing Science or listening to Guam stories for the year.

First Day of Classes - Sleepy, absent-minded students attempting to understand Latin and math classes, but then again most of us still are.

Early Winter Sports - The A-soccer team had a good season and finished by getting eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by BGA on Matt Crook's own goal, but who really cares about them? It's all about the B-team, where the players too good



"Mr. Juskiewicz, tuck that shirt tail in!"

team beat McCallie in OT 6-5 on Rob Phipps' final goal, his fourth of the game. It was the first seventh grade team ever to accomplish the feat.

Finals - One last week of suffering finished the year. We were free or at least for three days.

Graduation and Honors Nights - Kyle was the top dog in every class (except the lower math courses and gram/voc). Stockton won an award for being the

for the A-team go. We only won three games, but it was too much fun for that to matter. I bet in November we gave off more light playing shirts and skins than the Sun did. Our wrestling team was unbelievable; William Herbert and Wes McKeithan even wrestled in the freshman championship.

Mid-term Exams - Yeah, that great time was back again. As usual, we were stunned after most of our exams, but

HONOR

the looks on the seventh graders' faces after Dr. Marro's exam was over were priceless.

"Your Mom" Jokes Break Out - The co-founders are said to be Jonathan and Travis; however, no one knows for sure. Anyway, this has been the most popular phrase this year by far. It's definitely getting old by now, but I don't think some people realize that. Jonathan's response: "Your mom is old."

Spring Break - Vacation spots ranged from Montana to Cancun. All I know is goggle marks were as common as ants at a picnic.

Atlanta Trip - I could go on about this forever. I'm sure all of us could. Paintball was the best event of the trip by a wide margin (not all editors agree). Yellow/Green was victorious the whole day, even though the Red team made two massive charges that almost overran them. Six Flags comes second. Superman has been declared the best ride, but Batman, Ninja, and the Georgia Scorchers were also pretty good, just too short. The Braves game was fun, especially with that group of girls sitting next to us; Carver and Guy even had girls calling their names. Also, Matt Kimball's name was shown on the scoreboard for winning the Big Hit Contest hitting 4 of 7 balls. The only complaint for the trip was lack of food.

Last Three Weeks - Tests and quizzes came in about every class over this period. Exams seemed far away until we realized we only had one week before they started.

Finals - I predict it will be the usual week of exams. The only difference is we will all be in high school at the end of it.

Graduation and Honors Night - Welcome back to "unusual means of torture." The same things will happen as last year except someone else will get the Eighth Grade Boy Award, and we will graduate. Sorry, guys, no upside here.

Honor Council Rep 2003-2004: Austin Branstetter

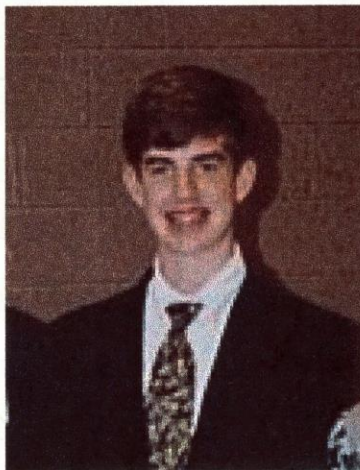
The class of 2008 recently chose its representative to next year's Honor Council, Austin Branstetter, who delivered this speech when he ran for the position:

One of the many reasons I am proud to be here at MBA is our Honor Code, which is so much more than scribbling the same words over and over again on homework, papers, quizzes, and

receive. But the MBA Honor Code is not just about cheating; we students also pledge to be honorable people who will not lie or steal. Because we are a family of sorts, we need to be worthy of each other's trust and respect. We not only monitor our own behavior but each other's as well because we have agreed that none of us should act dishonorably. I take great pride in being a student at a school that places so much importance on being a good person and doing the right thing.

I believe that in order to do a good job, an Honor Council representative needs certain qualities.

He needs to be an attentive listener who pays close attention to all details. A representative must be fair and unbiased, willing to hear both sides of a story before passing judgment on a situation. He must not



"Because we are a family of sorts, we need to be worthy of each other's trust and respect."

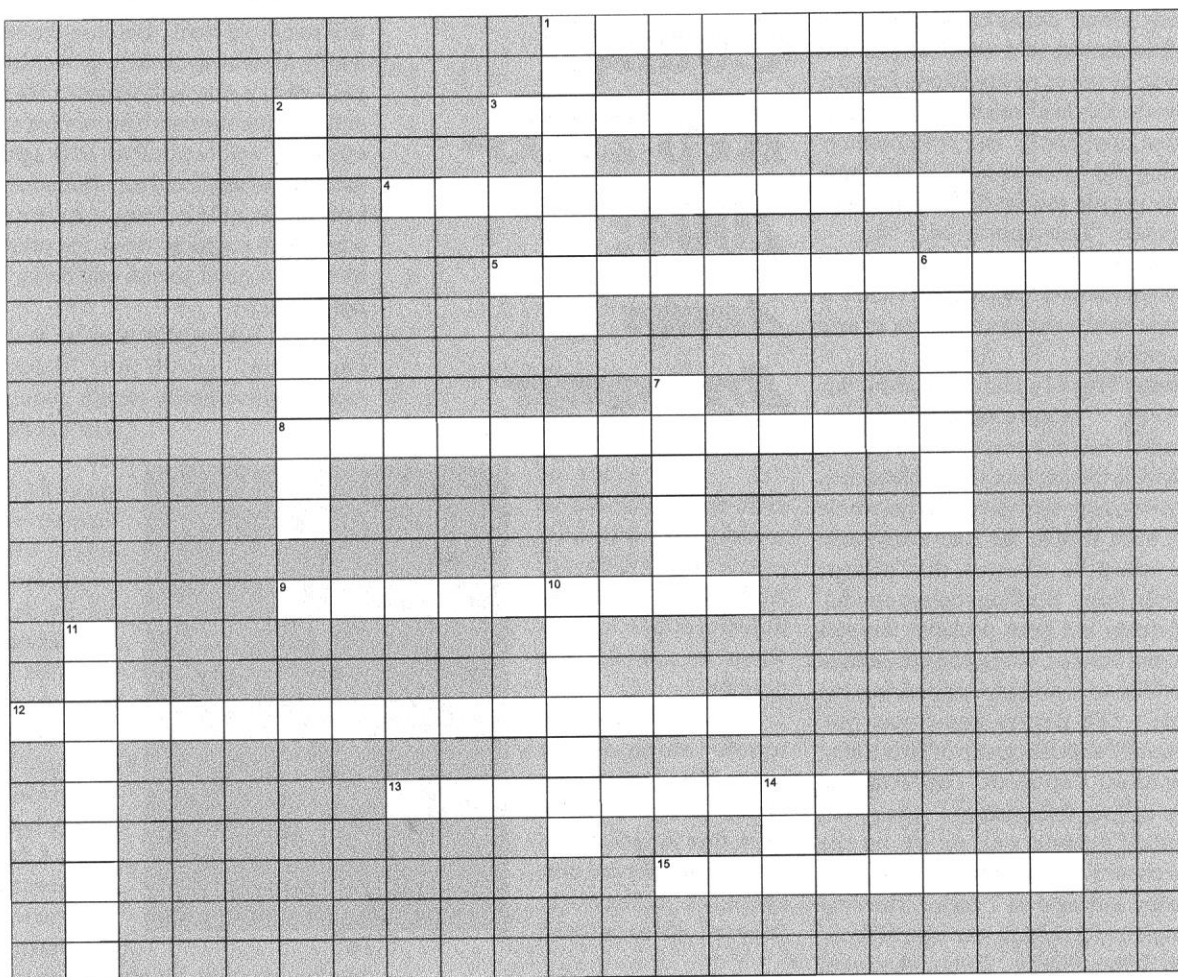
tests. Although tedious at times, pledging our work reminds us of our promise to truly earn the grades we

be afraid to speak his mind, even to his older peers. A representative must be willing to make difficult decisions in the best interest of our school. A representative must be trustworthy; he must keep quiet about proceedings, even when questioned by his friends. Last, but not least, an Honor Council representative's own behavior must be beyond reproach. I hope that you see these qualities in me and elect me to be your Honor Council representative.

Congratulations, Austin, on this significant achievement.

CROSSWORD

World's Best Heroes



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

Across

1. Old geezer of a rat
3. Half-man, half-arachnid
4. Seriously, he has a godfather
5. The four of them are fantastic
8. ___, is a party dude...Teenage Mutant ... uses the nunchucks
9. Furry-faced mutant
12. Has two identities: one is big and green
13. Shaken, not stirred
15. Mutant turtle leader. . .uses double samurai swords

Down

1. Its a bird, No wait! . . .
2. Lasso of truth/justice
6. Gives his enemies the STARE!
7. Guardian of Gotham City
10. Red, teenage turtle with a serious attitude...uses knife thingies.
11. Turtle geek. . .uses wooden stick
14. The savior of Zion

—A GRAND DAY—



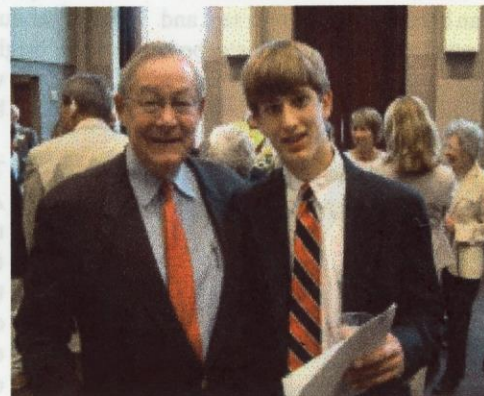
What more could Kimball ask for? A lady on each arm and a copy of the Top of the Hill



Chase Miller with DaDa and Marty Templeton



Michael with G-Daddy and Grams Anderson



Tate McNeilly with his grandfather, Bob McNeilly



The guests enjoyed Johnny Mishu's



Swan Burrus with grandmother Mary

—HARLAN'S PAGE—

Harlan's Top Ten Film Picks

By Harlan Dodson**

You've heard all the fancy critics say their top ten movies of all time, but what do they know? They're saying *Gone with the Wind* and all these Hitchcock films are great or stupendous or whatever. More importantly, all these movies are dramas, mysteries, or romances. Who cares about them? They can bore you out of your seat and make you sleep faster than a stepped-

movie has
A d a m
Sandler and
is very
entertaining.

It also
makes fun
of all those
big, fancy,
\$ 3 0 , 0 0 0
weddings,
which make
no sense
when you
can just go
out to
Vegas, hit it
big, and get

married by one of those cheap preachers
and pay about a hundred bucks. Even I,
not the brightest math student in the
world, can figure out the
better buy.

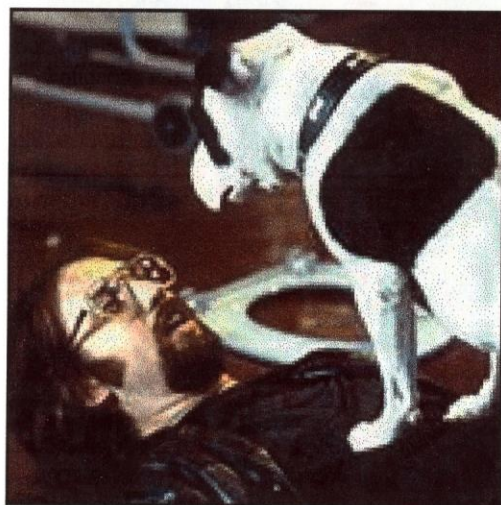
8. Friday After Next-

The third movie of the *Friday* series is the best of them all. Starring Ice Cube, this movie proves a long-taught proverb that you can't trust anyone, not even Santa Clause because even he wants to snag a few extra bucks.

7. Down to Earth-

Starring Chris Rock, this movie is basically stand-up with a plot. The

most enjoyable thing about this movie is watching white people try to be black and having Chris Rock forget he has turned white. The critics all said this movie was terrible, but who knows more, me or them? My point exactly.

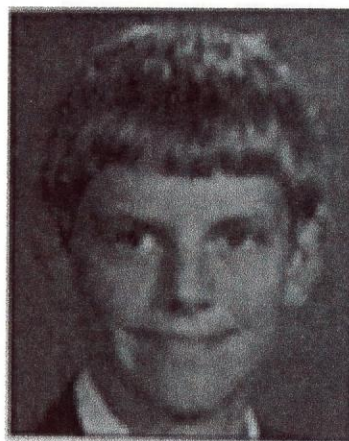


Down, Harlan!

on snake. So for all you real people, here are the top 10 movies of all time:

10. Out Cold- This movie is funny and has a great moral lesson that I'm still trying to find. It has also raised a very important question, haunting everyone: Can you get an STD from a bear?

9. The Wedding Singer- This



Ebert and Dodson

6. A Few Good Men-

At last a serious movie finds its way onto the most honorable list in the history of mankind. Starring Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson, this movie will keep you guessing until the end, and it is the only movie that the critics and I agree on.

5. Stealing Harvard-

The critics said it stunk, everyone thought it stunk, but I thought it was amazing, so that's all that matters. Starring a bunch of nobodies and Tom Green, this movie gives hope to all

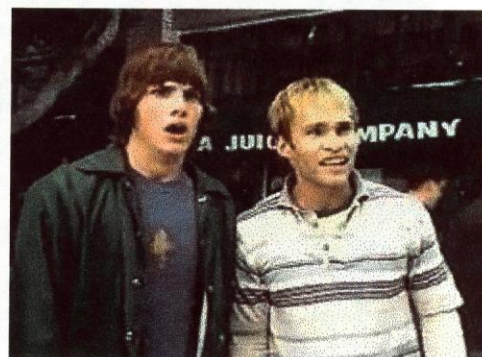
the people who will never be able to do anything in their life. It gives them an excuse to rob places if they find a good enough excuse.

4. Blue Streak-

I don't know what the critics said, and I don't care because it's a Martin Lawrence film, so they would say it stunk when their armpits were a lot worse. This movie has an extremely moral lesson that all should listen to. If the police are after you, run for Mexico.

3. Dude, Where's my Car?-

Some "distinguished" critic (whose name will be withheld so you don't run to his/her house and start to savagely beat him/her for being so



Dude, it's Harlan!

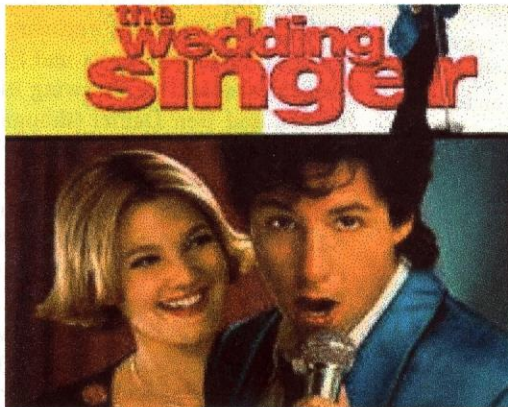
—HARLAN CONT.—

stupid) called this the worst movie ever made.

What is there not to like about this movie? It has Ashton Kutcher, Sean William Scott, ~~inexplicable~~ jump suits, and aliens. I could watch this once,

then have to go to the bathroom and eat, then be able to watch it again.

2. Roadtrip- This movie stars



Sing it, Harlan.

some random people and Tom Green. It sheds light on the true college tradition. I'm not talking about the amazing teachers (pause for laughter), the great friends one makes, or whatever ushy-gushy stuff I can say, but the roadtrip.

Unlike a lot of movies like it, it has a

movie didn't even have a chick to save it.



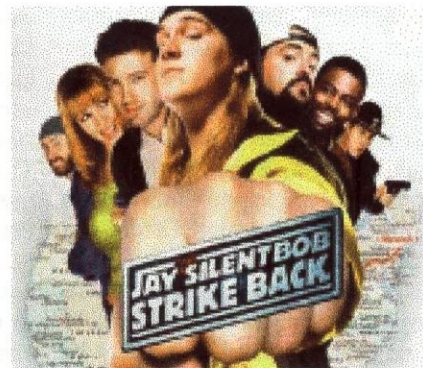
Harlan, you can't handle the truth.

plot.

1. Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back-

I got a stomach ache from laughing so hard and from the eight cherry cokes I had. Blasted by critics, but it has achieved the goal that all movies strive for-the best movie ever.

On top of this, I thought I'd throw on the worst 3 movies ever.



Jay and Silent Harlan Strike Bob.

3rd worst-Swimfan- Terribly stupid and pukeworthy. This movie is about a psycho lady who wants a guy; what's new about that? Worst of all, the

*Note: Once you re-read who this article was written by, it will all make sense.**

** Second Note: None of the editors agree with Harlan about any of his choices.

2nd worst-The

Adventures of Pluto Nash-

Save the women and children; this was just bad. It was a disgrace to any actor who played in it, and if it were a person I'd personally tell it to go home and lock itself in the closet. It was one of the biggest busts in history.

The worst movie ever in the history of the world-Titanic-

Aside from one scene, this 56-hour movie was boring and just painful to watch. Unless you died on the Titanic, you shouldn't care, and as I will point out, there are very few people who died on the Titanic who saw this movie. You may also note that this was the movie that grossed the most money ever.

This just proves my point; I'm smarter than all you, and everyone in the world is stupid.*

SPORTS

Junior School Tennis

By Rob Campbell

2003 was a great year for the Junior School Tennis team and Corey Metzman. First, there was Benton Harvey, who had a great season at number two doubles. Next there was Harrison Brown, who was in a huge slump starting at the end of tryouts and ending with his HVAC match. He started the season at number one singles and finished the season at number one doubles. Jordan Jenkins's season was different from both Benton's and Harrison's: he started the season at number five and finished at number five; at least he was consistent. Next was Alec McGuffey, who was so quiet he scared his opponents. Nick Heyden advanced throughout the entire season. Adam Speyer also played well this season, finally making his way up to singles because he hated doubles so much. Robert Awh occupied the number nine spot for much of the season, but most of the members of our team felt he should be playing higher than he was. I also suffered a slump towards the end of the season; I dropped from the number six slot all the way to the eighth slot in the last two weeks. Dylan Burroughs was also a valuable member of our team, despite the fact that he didn't even want to make the team in the first place. Then there was Corey Metzman, who not only played the number one spot but also tried to get us involved in his tennis racket stringing business--I think he still hasn't had a customer yet. Despite his childish

behavior, he had a good season, finishing second in the HVAC. Our team finished second only to Grassland in the HVAC tournament.

More Junior School Sports

By Hayes Arnold

When you look at the choices of sports that the MBA Junior School has to offer, you would notice that there is a variety, or at least that's what you think coming from Alabama. Despite this selection, I think that we should also get a Junior School hockey team, which would not only attract many young athletes but also improve our high school hockey team as the Junior School would feed it. Even though they hurt like anything, kickboxing and sparring matches would also be good sports to add, even though they don't fit with the "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete" motto. This addition would also raise the question of where we could get a coach. Preferably, this would be Kathy Long because she would add to the few female coaches that we have at MBA. Plus, she is the five-time world kickboxing champion, which consequently makes her unavailable. Instead, we would most likely end up with a British coach, who would hopefully be a midget that could not only teach kickboxing but also rugby as another good field sport. However, these additions will probably

never happen because we have no field space. Because of this problem, we could play the hot sports of curling, shuffleboard, ping-pong, and miniature golf--Gilmore style (go to your "happy place") and regular.

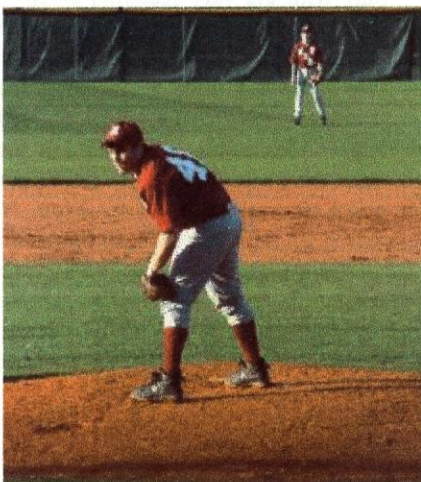
MBA TRACK 2003

By Kyle Davis

Since nobody seems to think track is a sport, I'll try to make this article short: The Microbe track team had a very successful season this year. Though we started out with a rough first meet (losing to the "Big Two"--Ensworth and Brentwood Academy), we improved our abilities significantly over the course of the season. In field events, we had Charlie Plageman, Mark Piana, and Harlan Dodson as our primary high jumpers; Morgan Gregory and Hunter Rogers handled the throwing of the discus, and Ben Daniel (though not officially part of the team) was our best shotput thrower. We also had the fantastic long jumping skills of Nathan Sears, Clayton Foster, and Mark Piana (at HVAC), and Christian Waddey and Charlie Plageman maneuvered the pole vault. In the distance running events (the 800-meter run and the mile run), our competitors included Drew Andrews, Patrick Quinn, Tyler Ramsden, Trey McMinn, Jake Gideon, Tom Wiseman, Mark Piana, Alex Smith, Daniel Givens, and, of course, the amazingly "talented" Jonathan Usry. In the short distance events (the 100-meter, 200-

— MORE SPORTS —

meter, and 400-meter runs), our sprinters included Hunter Rogers, Sam Moon, Nathan Sears, Mark Piana, Kyle Davis, Clayton Foster, Patrick Mehta, and Charlie Plageman. At the end of the season, we competed in the HVAC Championships, where Charlie Plageman's "injury" lost us a talented high jumper, pole vaulter, and sprinter. Also, in addition to stealing victory from the Microbe Lacrosse team, Woodland managed to secure a higher rank than we by placing a competitor in five field events (the limit is three). This competitor placed 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, and 6th



Ben Daniel brings the heat.

in those field events, and while he should have been disqualified from all five, he was only barred from the two in which he did worst (the 2nd and 6th). Thus, MBA finished 4th behind Brentwood Academy, Ensworth, and Woodland. Despite the bitter outcome, though, the MBA track team is proud to have grown so much in the season, and we would like to thank Coach O'Neil and Coach Sawyer for their leadership.

Microbe Baseball: Stopped Short by the Rain

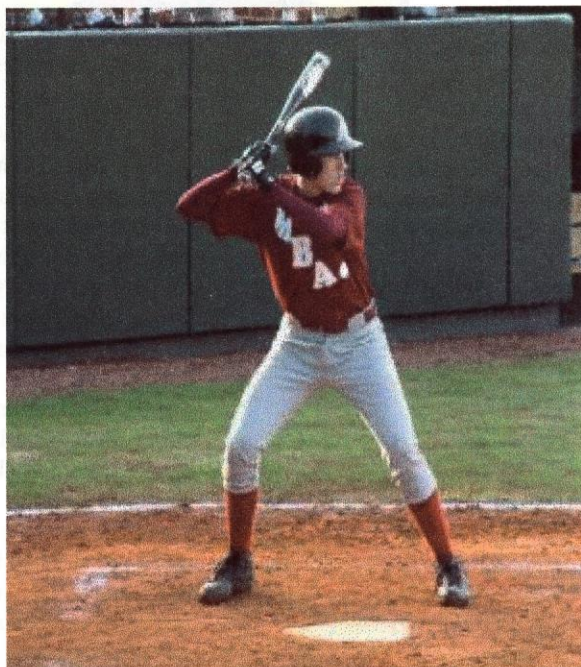
By Stockton Beveridge and Jeff Eberle

The microbe baseball team had a great season this year. The team finished the

season with a strong record of 12-5, making up for the horrendous season that some of our more talented baseball players had to experience last year. Among the other big wins MBA had this season, they beat

Brentwood Academy and Donelson Christian Academy, and had a huge win against Warren County (2-1), thanks to great pitching from Ben Daniel. The team's great record was helped thanks to significant leadership on the mound: Todd Miller, Ben Daniel, and Adam Baker started, and Matthew Kimball and Scott Schwartz came in as closers. Although they were not able to play in

the HVAC tournament, due to rain, they managed to snag second place in the regular season behind a powerful team from Woodland Middle School. They were, however, able to play in another tournament in the HVAC's stead, in which they finished in a tie for third place. Congratulations also to Jamie Berk on his effort in announcing for one of the games; it was a valiant try, and he is sure to improve next year. Great coaching from Mr. Popovich and help from the managers, Sam Robinson and Ben Satyshur, allowed the Microbe baseball team to turn last year's effort



Todd Miller contributes to the annihilation of FRA.

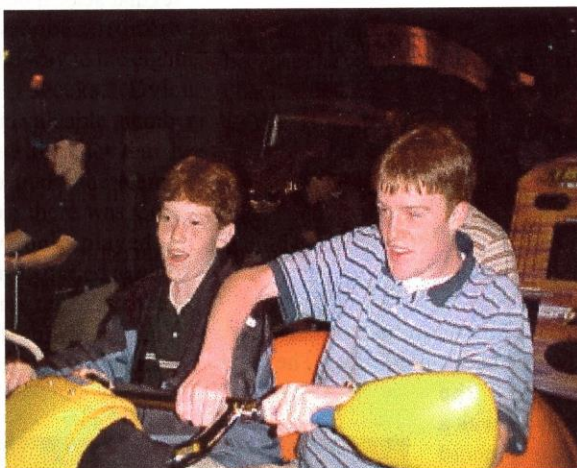
into a more improved season this year. The baseball team played well this year, and it will be interesting to see how they do next year as the seventh graders move up to fill the shoes of the powerful eighth grade.

— AT ATLANTA —

the varying coke products from around the world. These included Ginger Beer, watermelon drinks, and, of course, the notorious Beverly. Whoever enjoys this drink and whichever country they are from must be very, very insane. Some may enjoy the taste, that is, if one enjoys something clear which is odorless, but which tastes like highly concentrated

cough syrup. Underground Atlanta, a long street which is lined with shops and street vendors that has been turned into a sort of underground mall, was next

people bought was pimped out, fake Rolex's. These people enjoyed sporting



Redheads rowing rapidly down a raging river

their "ice" around Atlanta.

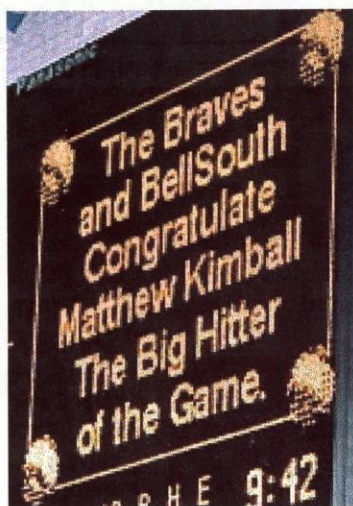
Next, we headed to the Lovett School to compete in a game of lacrosse. As expected, we crushed the so-called "team" 8-3 and celebrated excitedly in the rain. Our victory was in part due to the excessive cheering, chanting, and celebrations from our 8th grade classmates, and partly due to the lacrosse team's excellent skill and performance. After cleaning up and eating pizza, we climbed back on the buses to head to ESPNZone. Although we were not given enough points to start with, this restaurant/arcade was still a whole lot of fun. We stayed there for several hours playing games like

Golden Tees, _____ and enjoying the free drinks. At around 11:00 PM we left ESPNZone and headed for our hotel. After a twenty-minute drive, we arrived at the Westin Atlanta

Hotel. This hotel is very nice, and the employees were very kind to all of us, even when we were sometimes a hassle. Thanks to Mr. Thurmond's good friend, the manager of the hotel, we were allowed to stay in such a nice place. We were split into groups of four; each group had a room.

In the morning, we were awakened by our wake-up calls (7:15!), and managed to take showers and arrive downstairs by 8:00. We had Dunkin' Donuts for breakfast, and immediately headed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Museum. After a short video introduction, we were allowed to walk through the exhibits of the museum and play with the very realistic, creepily humanlike, life-size statues of people on a march. They were marching on a time line along the floor which gave the important events in the American Civil Rights Movement. We soon left the museum to walk a couple of blocks down to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, where King is buried in a large

tomb above ground, surrounded by blue pools which terrace down to the grave. We also came upon the eternal



on our extensive list of places to visit. The street was closed down, and they built new streets and buildings over the mall. Many of us bought souvenirs and trinkets. The most of any item that



JM Simpson, ready for the kill

flame, which helps to remember the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On a lighter note, we jumped in our buses and changed into our jeans and old, holey t-shirts. It was an hour-

ATLANTA

long drive to our next destination: Paintball Atlanta, which was definitely

the best part of the trip. We played on courses deep in the woods, and played several different types of games. Though some of us were able to make our paintballs last, many of us were trigger-happy and

had to buy more paint. After four hours, we prepared to leave the paintball arenas and get back on the bus once again. We were all showing each other our battle scars and deciding who had the biggest welt. Most of the big welts were caused by friendly fire when your teammates were right behind you and "accidentally" shot you.

We next headed back to our hotel to change and take showers before the Braves game. As we entered the hotel, many people were staring and pointing at us, some with laughter and others with disgust. This mockery was partly due to the fact that we walked in, most of us without shoes on, in muddy jeans, torn and paint-splattered t-shirts. We hurried to get changed and showered as quickly as possible, for we were on a tight schedule.

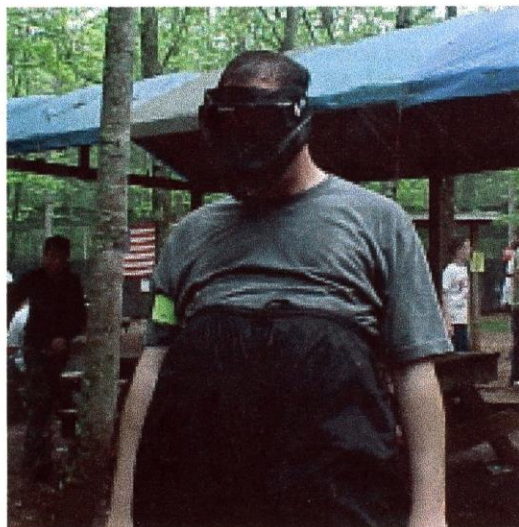
The Braves game was a blast. We played the Brewers, and the only thing that you need to know about that game is that the Braves lost terribly. A lot of us were very distracted by the

eighth grade girls sitting below and next to us. They were another school group

in Atlanta from Middle Tennessee. Highlights from the Braves game included Matthew Kimball being announced Big Hitter of the Game (he had the high score in a batting game), Travis Brannon's

obsession downstairs, with our bags packed this time, and departed to Six Flags over Atlanta. Six Flags was one of the best parts of the trip because we had a whole lot of freedom. We were allowed to split into our own groups and go anywhere in the park. The best rides: Superman, Mindbender, Batman, and the Georgia Scorcher. Superman was an awesome ride because the rider lies on his stomach, flying like Superman. The Georgia Scorcher was also unique because the rider is standing up while going through twists and loops. Our money was mostly spent on the cheap, rip-off carnival games. Some of us managed to win a basketball, and a few of us managed to win the life-size teddy bears. After a long day, we headed home on the buses, laden with toys and stuffed animals.

Overall, the trip was outstanding and a whole lot of fun. It



Dr. Marro: Revenge of the Paintball Nerd



Nicholas Drinkwater pelts Will Earthman . . . but why?

with Mark DeRosa, and Guy McClure trying to get himself a girlfriend.

After a good night's sleep in our hotel, we once again came

was a great way to get our minds off school and to enjoy time with our whole class.

—FEEL THE FLEX—

Battling the Bowflex

By Travis Brannon

Last year, after being turned down by over thirty girls and being made fun of constantly, I knew something wasn't right. I tried

everything to be cool, but nothing worked. I tried to wear baggy pants, I ordered Ronaldo's Best Pick-Up Lines, and I bought Daron's Dance Grooves. I looked like a punk and had a weird sense of humor, but at least I had dance moves as good as the Backstreet Boys'. I just wasn't cool yet. Then, when I turned on the TV, I saw there was a World's Strongest Man Competition on ESPN2. I

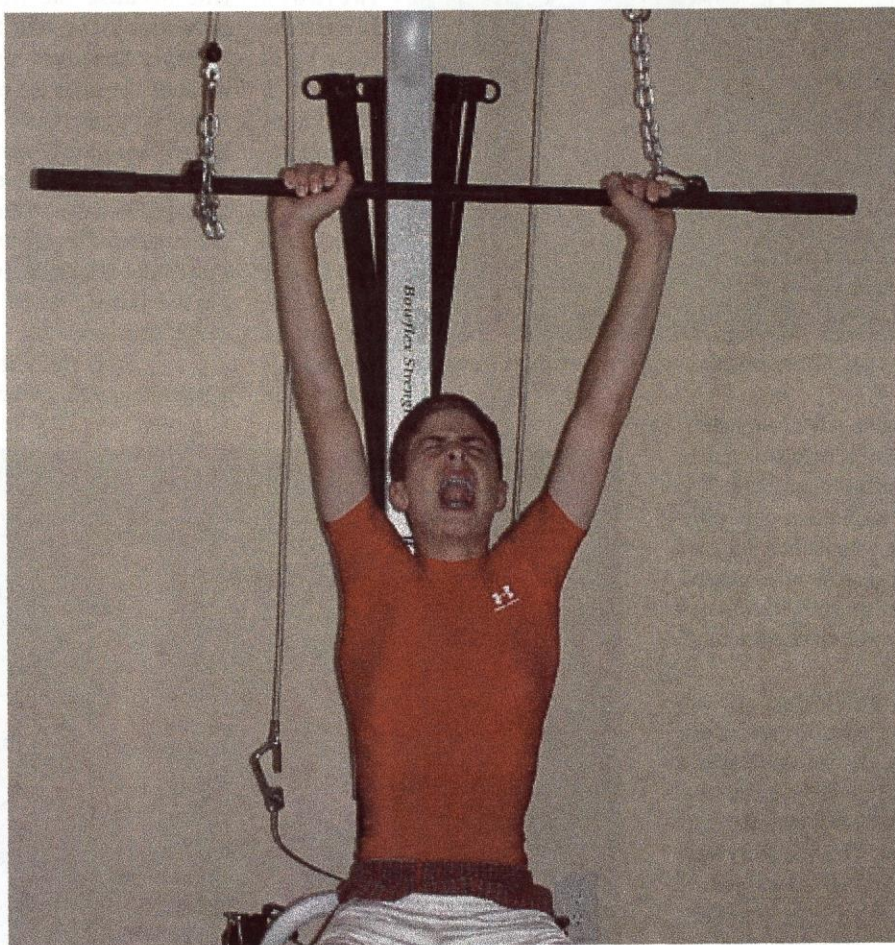
watched, and suddenly it clicked. I need to have amazing muscles and tight buttocks! But how?

After watching a three-hour infomercial on the Abtronic, I learned that you can get great, carved abs, firm

buttocks, 8-inch biceps, and horse-like quads all while watching TV. All you have to do is push a button, and you will be buff and strong. I immediately

every piece of my body, I got another idea. I found it in a tabloid after I read that space monkeys had landed on earth, had stolen our dearly beloved Bigfoot,

and then threw the bat-child into Halle Berry's oatmeal. The ad was called Hollywood Diet. I called the number, and the package was at my house three months later; it was a book, one page long. I thought, "Man, this must be simple!" I read the only sentence in the pamphlet. It said, "Do not eat anything for three years on end, and you will be totally in shape for 2008!" I did what it said. I emptied out my pantry and fridge right



Travis attempts to conquer the Power Pro XTLU®. (Travis, it works better if the weights are actually hooked up!)

ordered it and used it on every muscle in my body. I turned the power up to 500 and let 'er rip.

Back in the hospital when I was suffering from third-degree burns on

away.

A month later in rehab I was being treated for malnutrition. But it was true! I did lose 250 pounds! It was so simple! I told the doctor my story, and

TRIBUTE

he recommended that I should get the Bowflex. I responded, "Who would fall for that kind of gimmick?!" I tried to run out as quickly as possible, but my weak bones broke under my weight when I stood up.

I gave up. I'll never be cool. I'm always going to be a weak loser with no girlfriend. Then I turned on the TV, and another infomercial was on. It was that Bowflex thingy. The people using it were incredibly well-built; even the woman using it was jacked! Immediately I called 1-800-BOW-FLEX and got a wrong number. Then I dialed 1-888-557-6055; I asked for a Bowflex and they said, "Sir, would you like an Ultimate®, a Power Pro®, a Power Pro XT®, Power Pro XL®, a Power Pro XTL®, a Power Pro XTLU®, a Motivator®, a Motivator XT®, a Motivator XL®, a Motivator XTL®, or a Versatrainer®?" I said, "Ummmm...I'll take them all."

A month later eleven Bowflexes showed up on my doorstep.

The delivery guy said that the total was over \$10,738. I asked if I could pay in cash.

He said, "No, but we do take Visa and Mastercard."

"What about pennies?" I asked.

"That'll do."

Then I gave the man a water jug filled with 1,073,800 pennies. Then I gave him a nickel as the tip.

I ran inside and opened them all up and put them together. It took three hours to build the first one, and I was getting tired by the time I reached the second one. I finally put them all together in two weeks, and by that time I already was seeing improvements in my muscle size.

The workouts were easy to set up, but I had to order the leg exerciser. When I hooked the rods up to the hook I got a sense of satisfaction. As I pulled the handles toward my chest, it felt as if I were rowing a boat in a pool of cement.

Then, a week later, the cement became Jello®. A week later, water. Another week passed, air. I was on top of the world. Even my ears were strong.

One year later I walked into school, feeling as confident as ever, throwing every football player in my way right into the lockers. Now I was the big man on campus. After beating up the entire school, including teachers, I realized I still had no friends. "Maybe my luck will come with the ladies," I thought.

At the mixer that night I walked up to the first girl I saw and said, "Wanna dance, sugar bun?" She reluctantly said yes. When I put my hands on her waist, I broke both of her hips and three ribs. Then everyone ran away from me.

I realized that being strong isn't everything. Just because you can bend steel doesn't mean you'll be popular. It just means that people will laugh at you.

A Tribute to Patrick Hale

By Christian Wadley

As many of you know, Patrick Hale, an MBA alumnus and enthusiastic basketball coach, passed away several weeks ago. He was well-known by many seventh and eighth graders because he coached some of our teams, including most recently the Nashville Stars, who competed in Spain's Junior National Basketball Tournament. For those of us who knew him, Coach Hale was a very funny person who enjoyed a prank, even when he was the butt of the joke. On our basketball team's trip to Spain, I remember playing several tricks on Coach Hale, including the "lotion while you sleep" prank. However, I was

surprised that our laughs didn't wake him and even more surprised the next morning that he really wasn't mad at us.



Coach Patrick Hale on far right

He just laughed. We also had fun getting on to Coach about his shoes.

They were calf-high, worn down, forty-year-old Converse, and no one knew why he had them. Caden Anderson, one of the team members, actually bought him some shoes that Coach wore about once. No matter how well Coach

played, we still said he could benefit from a pair of Jordans. Those of us who knew Patrick Hale will always remember him.

—OLYM-PICS—



The halo effect of Daniel Sharbel



Charlie Christopherson, "discus" hurling pro



"John, step back, or I'll waste you with nerf darts."



Who cares about the rules? Let's shoot each other!



John Moynihan, the Terminator

BEST OF

Best of the Junior School

By Zach Richardson, Chase Altenbern, Stockton Beveridge, and Everitte Barbee

After spending hours on end in the *Top of the Hill* room, waiting while one person sits at the computer editing the paper, one becomes very bored. This article is a product of this boredom: A list of the best things at MBA, or in some cases, the worst:

Inanimate Objects:

Best Chair- that creepy one in Mrs. Bourland's room that looks as if it is going to get up and walk away

Best Room- Mrs. Franks's room, due to the wonderful display of cheerleaders and *Sports Illustrated* models on the wall

Best Lunch- meat substitute sandwich (riblets)

Best Water Fountain- the

one outside Mr. Brown's room, for no reason really.

Best Windows- Mr. Russell's; once again, we don't know why.

Best Pencil Sharpener - Mrs. Pettus's; perfectly tapered pencil points

Students:

Best Singer/Dancer- Scott

Schwartz, apprentice to the famous Michael Jackson

Worst Flatulence- an incredibly disgusting tie between Bill Eakin and



The Water Fountain

Benton Harvey

Most Likely To Be Called A "BOOB"

By Mr. Spiegl- Miller Bundy

Most Erudite- Kyle Davis

Most Gullible- Guy McClure

Faculty and Staff:

Best Screensavers- Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Snow

Best Handwriting - Mr. Russell

Best New Hairdo - Mrs. Christeson

Best Illustrations - Mr. Nichol

Worst Handwriting- Mr. Russ, if you can even call it writing...A good candidate for Mr. Russell's handwriting course

Most Likely To Pull Out Leather Whip

Named Black Bessie- Mr. Brown

Best At Keeping Students Awake- Mr. Woolsey...this answer wasn't sarcastic, we promise.

Hardest Teacher- Dr. Marro

Best Devil's Advocate - Mr. Whitfield

Most Entertaining Closet - Mr. Popovich

Other:

Worst Joke- adding "your mom" to any comment (Most likely to anticipate this comment-Kyle Davis)

Most Notorious Quiz Question- What is my favorite rock? question asked by Mr. Spiegl. (Note: We were never told the answer)

Best PL Hangout - Area of Refuge



The Chair

—AS SEEN ON TV—

American Idol:

So Close, So Disappointing

By Scott Schwartz and Kyle Davis

After the May 21st American Idol finale, many fans were ecstatic that Ruben Studdard had triumphed over Clay Aiken (by only a few thousand votes) and claimed the title of American Idol. Some of us, however, were not as pleased. After almost two hours of waiting anxiously (all the while being performed for by the old contestants and Kelly Clarkson, the first American Idol), many Clay fans were disappointed with the outcome of the competition that it seemed he had dominated. For those viewers who only tuned in for the finale of the show, however, here is an overview of all the contestants:

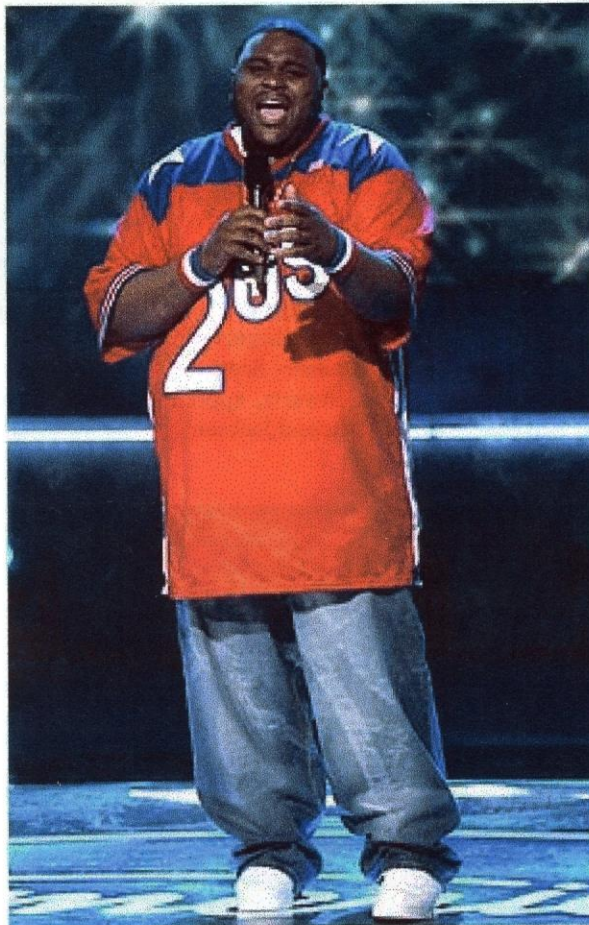
12th—Vanessa Olivarez: Vanessa's quirky personality and unusual style probably overshadowed her impressive singing ability, and she was voted off first. Maybe the contest is more about looks and appearance than the judges say. Best Performance: "You Keep Me Hangin' On"

11th—Charles Grigsby: Though we didn't get to see him for very long, Charles Grigsby always possessed a more mellow but still interesting personality. His vocals, like his personality, were more subdued and quiet, and they probably worked to his disadvantage, though he certainly didn't deserve to be kicked off so early. Best Performance: "How Sweet It Is"

10th—Julia DeMato: Probably the most attractive contestant in the top 12, Julia DeMato developed an interesting trend: the longer the contest went on, and the

more attractive she became, the worse her singing was; she definitely sang best in the earlier rounds. Best

rather annoying after too much exposure. Best Performance: "Foolish Heart"



Ruben, the new American Idol

Performance: "Son of a Preacher Man"

9th—Corey Clark: After his antics in the auditions in Glendale (where 264 contestants were eliminated to 32), it didn't come as a surprise to find out that Corey had been involved with the law before, and was kicked out of the competition by the producers for not telling them. While in the competition, his high-pitched voice was refreshing to listen to for a while, but became

her voice was very scratchy and often times too low-pitched. Also, viewers could easily become annoyed with the way she seemed to suck up to the judges (i.e. laughing amiably while they criticized her performance and then thanking them for the criticisms). Best Performance: "Nowhere to Run"

6th—Carmen Rasmusen: Carmen was, in every way, a mistake in the competition. She was almost always out of pitch

8th—Rickey Smith: Rickey will probably be known as "Hercules" for the rest of his life because of his *Nutty Professor* imitation in the early auditions. While Rickey could sing as high as Corey, he didn't always, and the variety in his singing was much easier to listen to. He definitely shouldn't have been voted out so early. Best Performance: "Let's Groove"

7th—Kimberley Caldwell: Kimberley's attractive looks are probably what carried her so far in the competition;

—IDOLS ON FOX—

when singing her songs and couldn't hit high notes without yodeling. No one knows what Simon was thinking when

he chose her over Chip Days in the Wildcard Round, and Carmen should have been the first voted off.

Best Performance: Not applicable

5th—Trenyce (Cobbins): Unlike Corey, Trenyce had enough sense to tell the producers of the show that she had a criminal record (for shoplifting), and so she was kept on the show. After Motown night, though,

she never received the credit she deserved for easily being the second best female singer in the competition. At least she outlasted Carmen. **Best Performance:** "Proud Mary"

4th—Joshua Gracin: The only reason Josh made it to the top four was because he knew how to use his popularity as a Marine. He never had a conclusive sound to his voice (he teetered between his original voice and a country voice), and his pathetic attempts to embarrass Simon (i.e. challenging Simon to a pushup contest onstage) were in vain, as Simon did more pushups in a shorter amount of time. **Best Performance:** "I'll Be"

3rd—Kimberley Locke: Definitely the best female singer of the competition, the Nashville native represented 615 well from start to finish. Though she had a few rough performances along the way,

her rich voice carried her to the top three, and she should have moved on to the final two. **Best Performances:** "If You

Asked Me To," "New York State of Mind," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

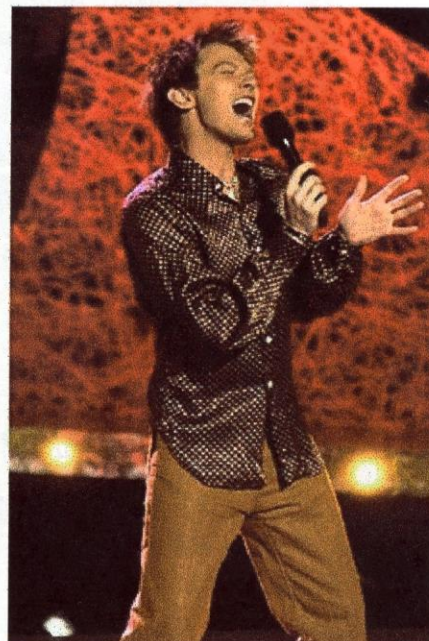
2nd — Clay Aiken: The best singer of the competition, Clay underwent a complete transformation, in appearance and

1st—Ruben Studdard: Certain characteristics of Ruben can be aggravating; often he shows very little range in his voice, and he doesn't seem to sing with enough passion in his songs. He almost never "belts" any notes, and there is hardly ever a climax or point of emotional intensity in the songs he sings. When not in performance, he still shows little personality; he almost never talks when he isn't being asked a question, and he didn't even seem very excited that he had won the competition. Nevertheless, Ruben definitely deserves fame and recognition; he is always consistent in his very smooth and soulful delivery, especially in the ballads he sings. **Best Performances:** "Superstar," "Flying Without Wings," "A House Is Not a Home"



Kimberley Locke: Making 615 proud

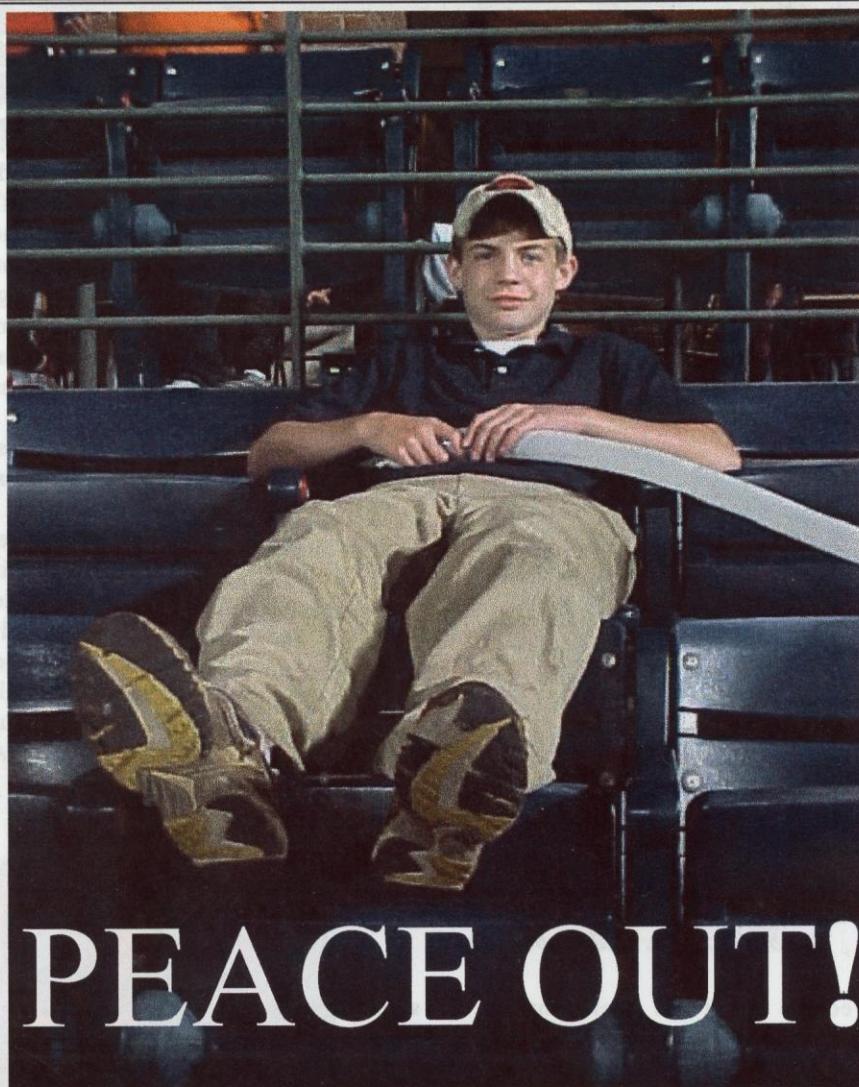
performance. His style obviously changed from the geeky-looking "glasses/red hair" look to his appearance today; in addition, he has, throughout the competition, taken to heart almost all of the judges' criticisms and honored their requests (e.g. he has stopped making "odd facial expressions" that Simon criticized). Clay proved that he could hit any high note and continued to impress everyone week after week of performance. **Best Performances:** "Unchained Melody," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "To Love Somebody," "Grease"



Clay: Aiken for the title

think Clay was more deserving of the award. There's always next season.

When it really comes down to it, both Clay and Ruben get record contracts, so, in essence, it didn't really matter who won. However, we still



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